



FRUITA
COLORADO

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP
AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

TO: FRUITA CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR

FROM: KIMBERLY BULLEN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

DATE: JANUARY 28, 2025

AGENDA TEXT: Mountain Water Properties Update (6:30 – 7:00 p.m.)

PURPOSE

To provide City Council and Mayor a summary of activities as it pertains to City of Fruita Mountain Water Properties including offer letters and responses sent to the various federal, state, and local agencies offering the properties as a donation, discussions with other entities to identify additional options, and an update on the design to breach Reservoir #2.

In addition, staff would like direction from the Council regarding the next steps for Mountain Water Properties, including engagement with the city's Real Estate Agent to list the properties on the open market and whether to move forward with breach of Reservoir #2.

BACKGROUND

At the Fruita City Council meeting on September 19, 2023 City Council directed staff to continue working with the Ute Water Conservancy District, U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, Mesa County, and all other potential partners to seek solutions for Fruita Reservoirs 1, 2, and 3, and the 125 – acre parcel of land, and specifically make formal offers of free donation in order of Ute Water Conservancy District, Mesa County, US Forest Service, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Through adoption of Resolution 2023-34 on November 13, 2024 Fruita City Council seeks to divest the city of Fruita from owning, maintaining, and managing all City of Fruita Mountain Properties, including water rights, and if public entities decline the offers of donation, the city will proceed with listing the properties and water rights for sale following the same process as it did with Enoch Lake.

The City of Fruita also entered into a contract with SGM, Inc. in 2024 for the purpose of design services related to the breach of the dam at Fruita Reservoir #2 in compliance with all applicable regulations and standards set forth by the Colorado Dam Safety Engineer (Dam Safety) including but not limited to Rules 6 and 9 and all applicable regulations and standards set forth by the United States Department of Agriculture; evaluation of current conditions at the reservoir site and specialized evaluation and reporting sufficient to secure NWP-27 approval for the project; and development of a restoration plan that meets USFS requirements and qualifies for United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) approval.

A timeline of the discussions with outside agencies is included with this cover sheet, along with the resolution.